

# ***NORTH EAST DOWNS NEWS***

***SEPTEMBER/ OCTOBER 2016***



## ***UPDATE FROM NED***

I am sure that all of you can reflect on personal and community challenges throughout life that emerged or crept up on us and required a significant change in our thinking and approach. The major change and point of discussion for the NED Committee in 2016, and recent years, has been the decline in grant funding availability and competition for the public dollar. This reduction has meant that the Committee has been using financial reserves built up by good stewardship through the 90's and early 2000's, whilst at the same time, exploring options for the future of NED.

Crunch time did come earlier this year with the decision to close the Oakey Office in July, saving ten to eleven thousand dollars per year. A container was purchased and setup at my place near Jondaryan to store important records and files, steel cabinets and items of equipment. Additionally, Owena as the remunerated support officer, has gratefully accepted a reduced role and setup office at her residence. This downsizing may impact on the capacity of NED to deliver projects and activities, whilst placing an additional burden on local volunteers to assist with planning and co-ordination.

Landcare has been very successful throughout the last two to three decades informing and assisting Landholders with the adoption of practice change and innovation. However, many challenges remain with feral pests and weeds, sustainable and profitable agriculture and grazing requiring close attention while maintaining and enhancing the natural diversity of the Region's flora and fauna. The Region has a unique and rich national heritage.

The issues confronting individual Landholders are also very diverse across the member groups and districts, eg new and emerging weed / grass species, which add to the complexity of land management and control options.

The other change that I wish to mention is that I have stepped down from my position as Chair, primarily due to the completion of 5 continuous years in the position, per the clause in the NED Constitution. I welcome and thank Acting Chair Ashley Volz for taking on the role until the NED AGM at Oakey on the 17<sup>th</sup> October.

I encourage all Landcarers to hang in there and stay involved.

Thanks you and best wishes,  
Graham Cooke.

## ***COMING EVENTS***

Saturday 15th October 2016	9.30am Oakey Cultural Centre -Drought Resilience Morning Tea
Thursday 20th October 2016	6.30pm Oakey RSL -NED Annual meeting and AGM
Saturday 29th October 2016	9.00am ST Augustine's Hall -First aid and CPR update
Saturday 3rd December 2016	7.00pm Peranga Bowls Club-NED Christmas Party

## Notice Board



**Kindy Visit** Thank you to Clare Gover -Return to the Wild Inc. Koala rescue. Clare assisted me with a visit to the C&K Kindy at Oakey. Clare talked to the children about her work with koalas and other injured native animals. If you have found an injured native animal contacted Clare mobile 0427969860 [www.returntothewildinc.org.au](http://www.returntothewildinc.org.au)

**Feral Pig Traps** Thank you to Crows Nest Creek Landcare Group who have loaned us 4 feral pig traps to use in the NED area. If you would like to borrow the traps please contact Ashley Volz Phone 4692 8080 for more details on how and where the traps can be picked up



**Congratulations to Gormaren Doctors Creek Catchment Landcare Group** on running a very successful Focus on farms" photo competition "The winning entries are being displayed in the Toowoomba Regional Councils mobile library. for one month The official exhibition opening and announcement of winners by Councillor Joe Ramia was held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September at Gowrie St Park, Kingsthorpe

**Interviews with young landholders** In 2011 NED received some funding to conduct interviews with young landholders to talk about what they were doing on their farms and how different things such as the weather effected their lives and the farm. Earlier this year NED received some funding from Condamine Alliance that enabled me to conducted interviews with some of the young farmers again to talk about projects that they are doing, had done or might be interested in doing in the future. I would like to thank these young farmers for taking the time out of their busy lives to talk to me. I really appreciated your input

**Supples Office furniture** The NED committee is seeking to dispose of supples office furniture. There are 4 credenza's and 4 desks. If anyone is interested please contact Graham Cooke Mobile 0429 328 681



**New computer** thanks to a donation from New Hope NED was able to purchase a new computer for use by the Community Support Officer

**Message from the NED treasurer** North East Downs Landcare is looking for your suggestions for workshops or projects you would like to see implemented in the area. Is there an aspect of farming or rural life where the skills/knowledge will benefit the region? If you have an idea or area of interest, let us know. Email [info@nedlandcare.org.au](mailto:info@nedlandcare.org.au) with your suggestion or post to Owena Reimers, "The Ironbarks", MS 863, MACLAGAN. QLD. 4352

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

<b>Acting Chair:</b>	Ashley Volz
<b>Acting Vice Chair:</b>	Graham Cooke
<b>Secretary:</b>	Glenys Bowtell
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Davida Schemioneck
<b>Members:</b>	David Lange, Desley Spies, Cheryl Vonhoff

**Map my place** In May NED hosted a interactive workshop in Dalby so attendees could develop property and landscape maps. The project was funded from the Qld Government's NRM Investment Program and the Australian Governments National Landcare Program and was supported by Condamine Alliance

**Community Support Officer** **Owena Reimers**  
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